

My name is Tonya

I want to start out saying that I support the proposed House Bill 5041 that changes the CSC 2 statute.

Now I would like to tell you why I am here. My name is Tonya Johnson, and I am 42 years old and the mother of a bright and beautiful 12 year old daughter. I work very hard to support the two of us. I am also on the Sexual Offender Registry.

A few years ago I worked for the Department of Corrections as a Correction Officer. In 2003 a man who was in the prison where I worked was released on parole. We then had a brief adult consensual relationship. Over a year after this occurred I was sought out and prosecuted for criminal sexual conduct. (the man being approximately 6ft 250 lbs.) This was not the best decision I had ever made but I never dreamed of the consequences.

I went to court and plead guilty to a reduced charge. The judge decided to assess the minimum sentence of a \$1000 fine and 18 months probation. His comment was that there was no victim in this crime and was most certainly consensual. He also asserted that the people of Calhoun county spent 5000.00 to prosecute me. It cost me \$6000.00 ~~of~~ to get the questionable advice of my lawyer to accept the plea instead of fighting the case. My guilty plea was mainly out of fear of a prison sentence where I could not take care of my daughter.

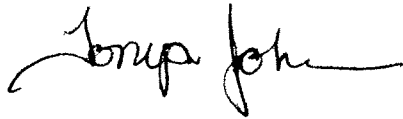
Things only got worse. Approximately 6months after being place on the Registry, pictures were added to the other information. Now anyone with internet access can see my face and my address just like everyone else on The List. My understanding is that the SOR is to provide information about the location of potential sexual predators. It is my aim to show that I am in no way a danger to anyone. Should I be on the SOR for 25years? Shouldn't there be a way to remove people from it if found not a threat?

My mistake has cost me a lot. My higher paying job, though many on the list cannot find work. My freedom to live where I would like, such as closer than 1000 feet from a school. Will I be able to attend school events for my daughter in the future? Who knows what the future brings? Because of my situation some good things have happened. I know who my real friends are, and who in my family will support me through anything. I am tougher because of this, but surely I have been through enough.

Finally, please find a way to make it possible for people who are not a threat to anyone, a way to get off this necessary list.

Thank you for your time,

Tonya Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tonya Johnson', written in a cursive style.